MARVEL EDGE
OCT·345
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
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R.WAGNER
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DIRECT EDITION
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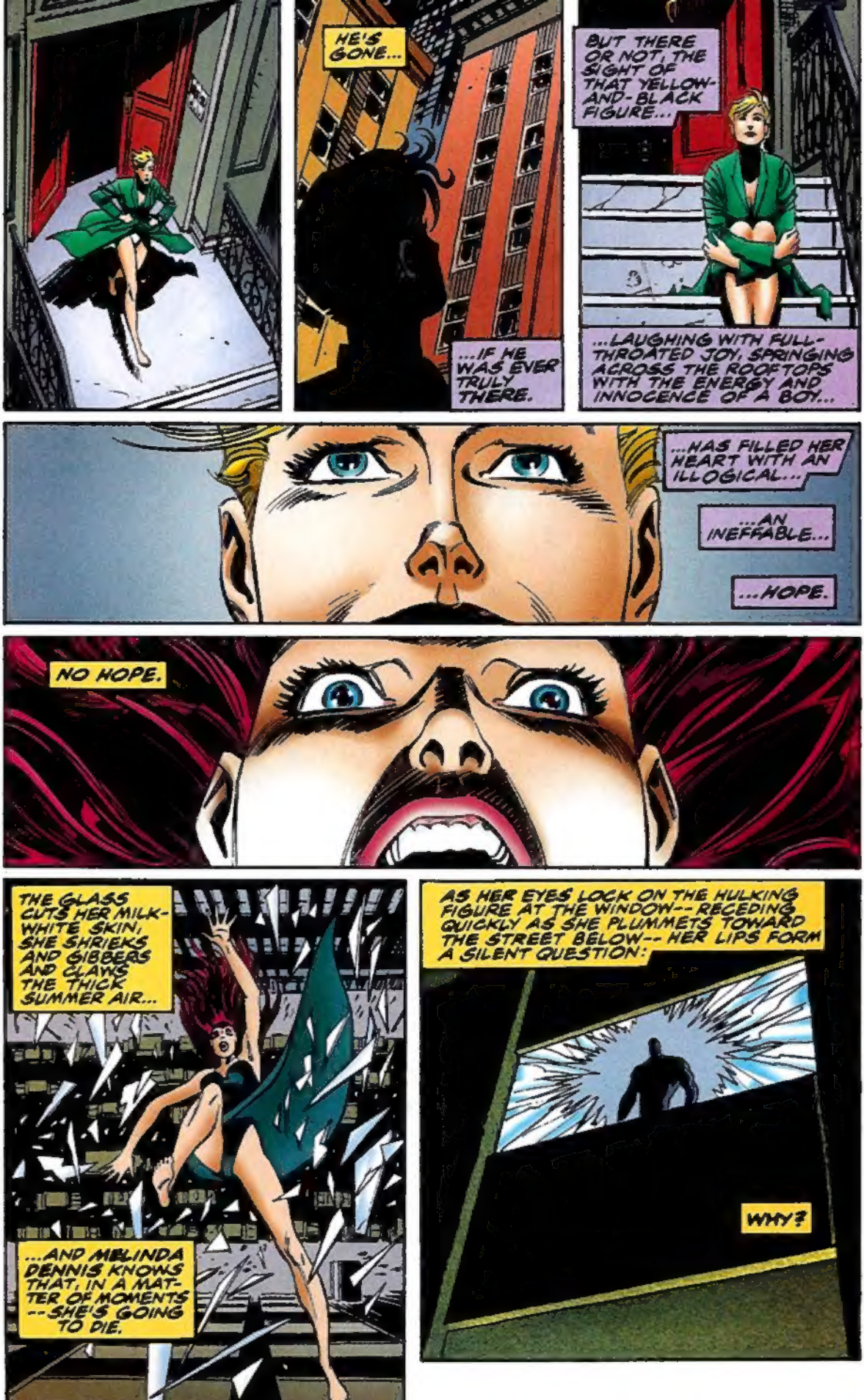
...IS ENOUGH TO CONVINCE HER THAT SHE MUST STILL BE ASLEEP.
FOR THERE STANDS AN IMPOSSIBILITY.
AN ECHO. A PHANTOM.
A LIE.
Stan Lee presents
DAREDEVIL
IN
INFERNO
PART ONE
J.M. DEMATTEIS, WRITER * RON WAGNER, PENCILER * BILL REINHOLD, INKER
JIM NOVAK, LETTERER * CHRISTIE SCHEELE, COLORIST * JAMES FELDER, EDITOR
BOBBIE CHASE, EDITOR IN CHIEF * MALIBU, COMPUTER COLOR

MATT...?
HAHAHA
HA
HA
TOING!
PFATT!


HE'S GONE...
...IF HE WAS EVER TRULY THERE.
BUT THERE OR NOT, THE SIGHT OF THAT YELLOW-AND-BLACK FIGURE...
...LAUGHING WITH FULL-THROATED JOY, SPRINGING ACROSS THE ROOFTOPS WITH THE ENERGY AND INNOCENCE OF A BOY...
...HAS FILLED HER HEART WITH AN ILLOGICAL...
...AN INEFFABLE...
...HOPE.
NO HOPE.
THE GLASS CUTS HER MILK-WHITE SKIN, SHE SHRIEKS AND GIBBERS AND CLAWS THE THICK SUMMER AIR...
...AND MELINDA DENNIS KNOWS THAT, IN A MATTER OF MOMENTS --SHE'S GOING TO DIE.
AS HER EYES LOCK ON THE HULKING FIGURE AT THE WINDOW--RECEDING QUICKLY AS SHE PLUMMETS TOWARD THE STREET BELOW--HER LIPS FORM A SILENT QUESTION:
WHY?

WHY?

HE WAS SIX BLOCKS AWAY WHEN HE HEARD THE SHATTERING GLASS--AND THE FRIGHTENED, INEFFECTUAL SCREAMS.
SIX BLOCKS COVERED IN LESS TIME THAN IT WOULD TAKE THE AVERAGE MAN TO RACE UP HALF A DOZEN STAIRS.
BUT THE WOMAN HIT THE CAR THIRTY SECONDS BEFORE HE ARRIVED.

IT'S NOT FAIR.
HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SAVE HER. THAT'S WHY HE WEARS THE SUIT, ISN'T IT? BECAUSE HE'S A HERO? BECAUSE HE CAN SUCCEED WHERE OTHER PEOPLE CAN'T?
SOMETIMES, YES; BUT NOT ALL THE TIME.

DESPITE THE HYPER-SENSES THAT MORE THAN COMPENSATE FOR HIS BLIND EYES... DESPITE THE BODY TRAINED TO PHYSICAL PERFECTION...
...HE'S JUST A MAN.
AND MEN ARE LIMITED, FLAWED. THEY MAKE MISTAKES.
SHAKT

KA-TECHH!
CHONK!

...HARRR...
ARRRR
HUHH!
TOOF!
KRAK!
PAKKK!

CH
KONG!

THEY FAIL.

--BY DAREDEVIL--

--YOU OKAY?
WH-WHERE--
WHERE DID HE GO?
PLOWED THROUGH A DOZEN OF MY MEN...RAN UP TO THE ROOF--

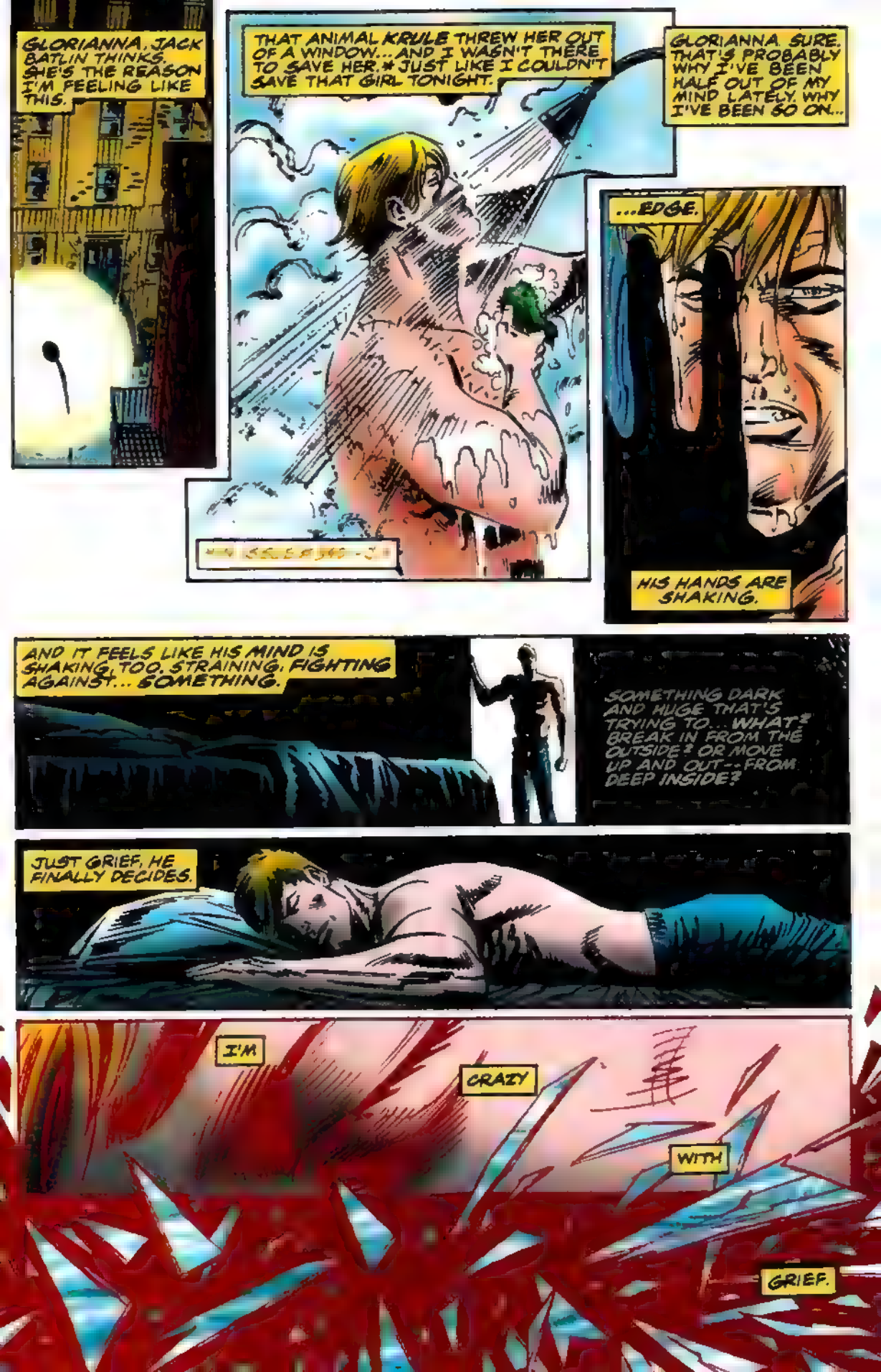
--AND THEN... DISAPPEARED.
SHOULD'VE JUST LET HIM THROW ME OUT THE WINDOW.
WHAT?

NOTHING.

NOTHING AT ALL.

HE LOVES THE LAW BUT HATES THE PAPERWORK. IT'S LIKE BEING IN SCHOOL AGAIN. IT'S LIKE HOMEWORK.
AND FRANKLIN NELSON WASN'T VERY GOOD AT GETTING THAT IN ON TIME, EITHER.
HE CAN'T AFFORD A DECENT SECRETARY -- AND MOST OF THE TEMPS THAT COME THROUGH ARE EITHER SUBLITERATE OR OVERQUALIFIED; IN EITHER CASE, THEY'RE ALWAYS TOO BORED TO GET IT RIGHT.
SO IT'S UP TO HIM. ALWAYS UP TO HIM.
HE REMEMBERS A TIME WHEN HE WASN'T ALONE, WHEN THE FIRM WAS A PARTNERSHIP: NELSON AND MURDOCK. FOGGY AND MATT. THE GOOD OLD DAYS, HE MUSES -- BEFORE REMINDING HIMSELF THAT THEY WEREN'T ALWAYS SO GOOD...
...AND THEY ENDED PRETTY BADLY.
BABY RUTH
BEEN WRESTLING WITH YOUR WEIGHT YOUR WHOLE LIFE, HAVEN'T YOU?
NUH?
ALWAYS STARING IN THE MIRROR... EMBARRASSED BY YOUR BELLY. "NEXT MONTH, TEN POUNDS ...I PROMISE."

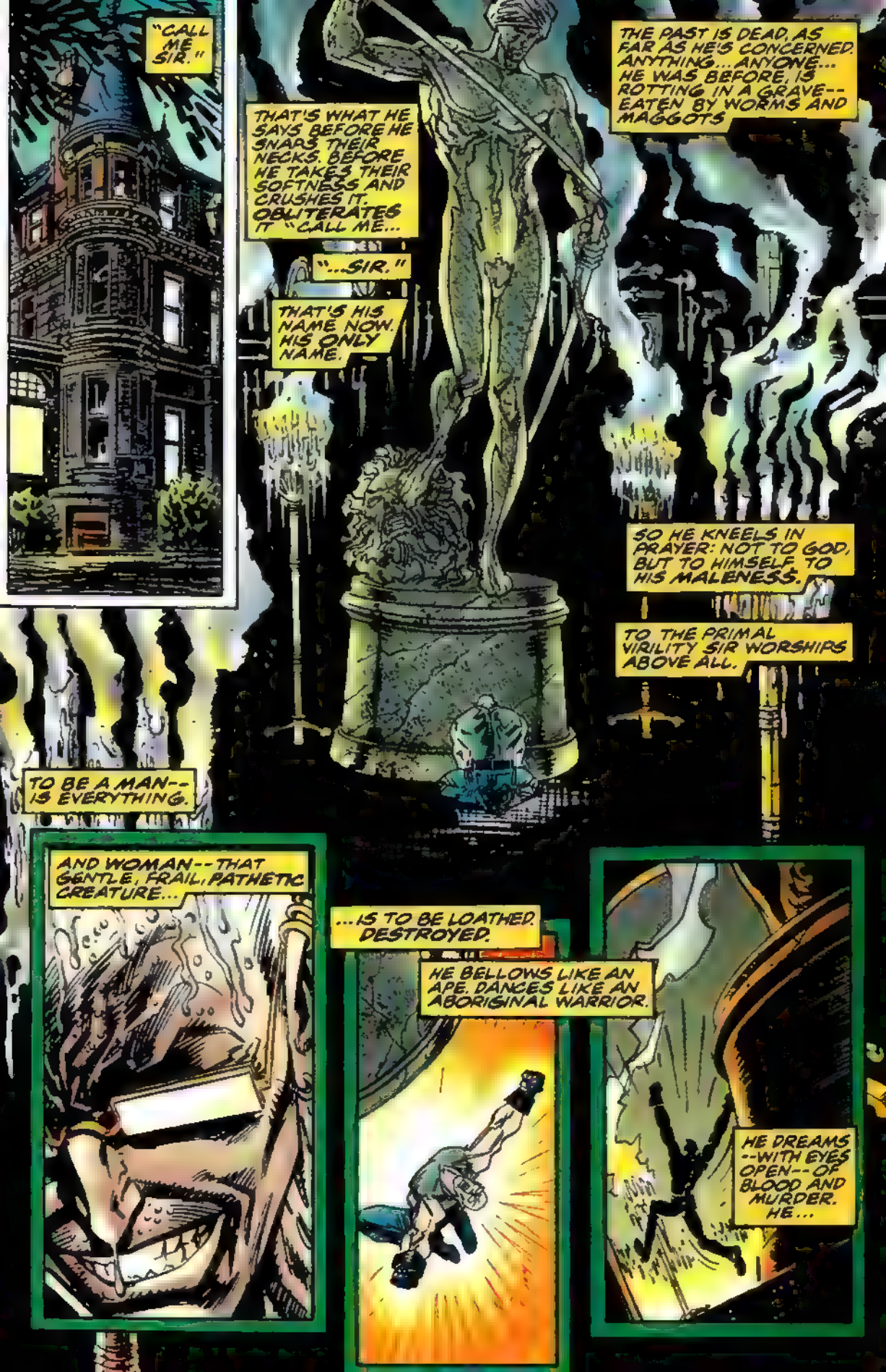
SO TELL ME, FOGSTER--
--WHY DO YOU KEEP SABOTAGING YOURSELF?
WH-WHO ARE YOU?!
WHO DO I LOOK LIKE?
BETTER SPREAD THE WORD, COUNSELOR: DAREDEVIL'S BACK. THE REAL DAREDEVIL.
AND TELL THAT PHONY RUNNING AROUND ABUSING MY NAME--
--TO WATCH HIS BACK!
I THINK--
--I NEED A COUPLE OF SLICES OF PIZZA.


GLORIANNA. JACK BATLIN THINKS SHE'S THE REASON I'M FEELING LIKE THIS.
THAT ANIMAL KRULE THREW HER OUT OF A WINDOW... AND I WASN'T THERE TO SAVE HER. * JUST LIKE I COULDN'T SAVE THAT GIRL TONIGHT.
GLORIANNA. SURE. THAT'S PROBABLY WHY I'VE BEEN HALF OUT OF MY MIND LATELY. WHY I'VE BEEN SO ON...
...EDGE.
HIS HANDS ARE SHAKING.
AND IT FEELS LIKE HIS MIND IS SHAKING, TOO. STRAINING. FIGHTING AGAINST... SOMETHING.
SOMETHING DARK AND HUGE THAT'S TRYING TO... WHAT? BREAK IN FROM THE OUTSIDE? OR MOVE UP AND OUT -- FROM DEEP INSIDE?
JUST GRIEF, HE FINALLY DECIDES.
I'M
CRAZY
WITH
GRIEF.

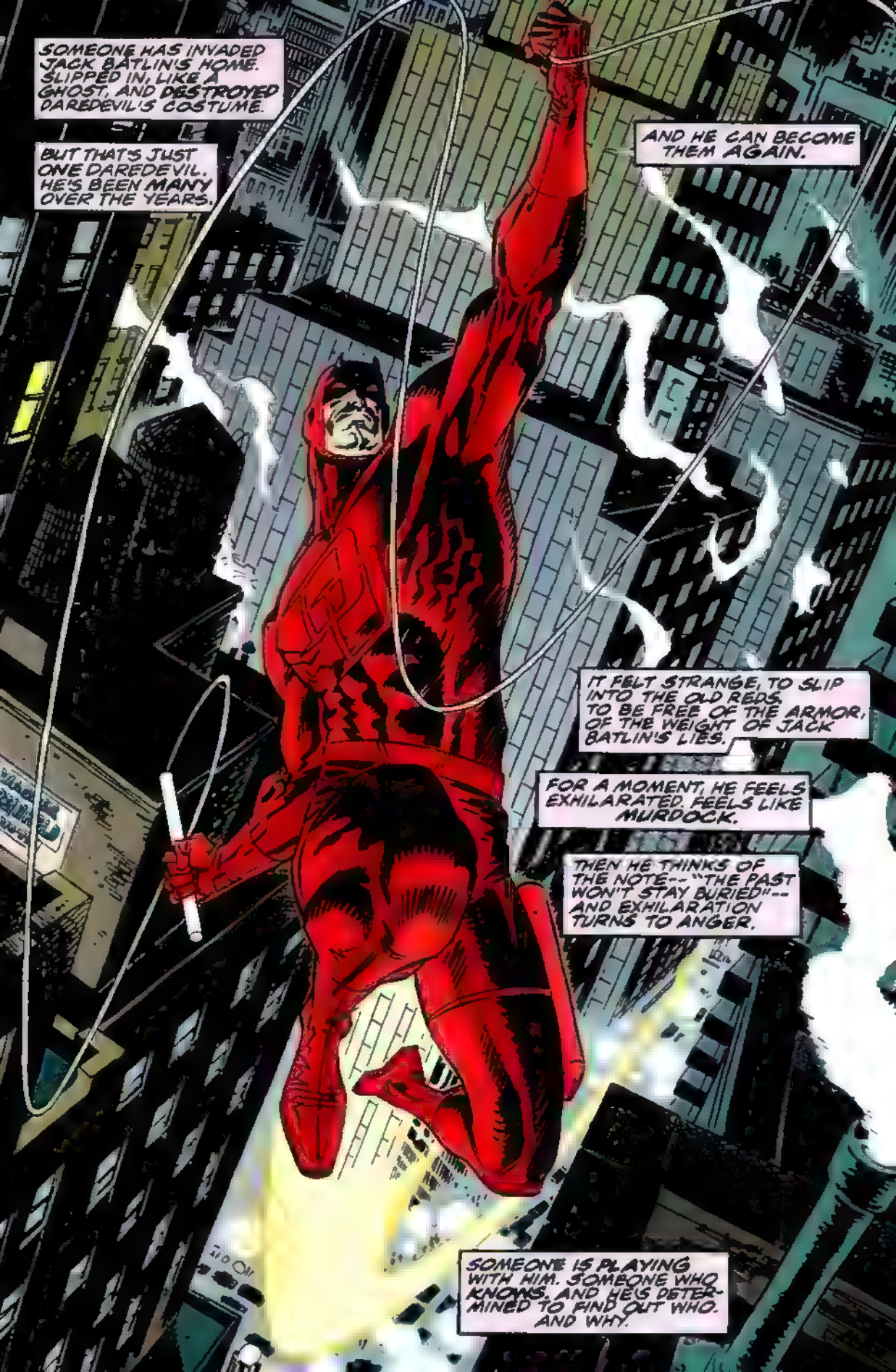
BATLIN
(NO! NOT BATLIN! BATLIN'S A LIE! I'M MATT MURDOCK!)
NO FEAR.
...FEELS HIMSELF FALLING: HELPLESS AND RESIGNED. STRANGELY CALM.
AFTER ALL HE'S "THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR." ISN'T THAT WHAT THE PAPERS CALL HIM? AND IF HE CAN'T FACE DEATH CALMLY--WHO CAN?
(MURDOCK'S DEAD! LET HIM STAY DEAD! BURIED DEEP IN THE GROUND!)
BUT THEN HE REALIZES --THAT HE'S NOT THE ONE WHO'S FALLING. THEY ARE.
HE WANTS TO LEAP. GRAB AT LEAST ONE TREMBLING HAND. SAVE ONE DOOMED SOUL.
BUT HE CAN'T.
(DEEP IN THE DARK.)
HE'S PARALYZED WITH TERROR. EVERY MUSCLE. EVERY NERVE-ENDING
"THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR?"

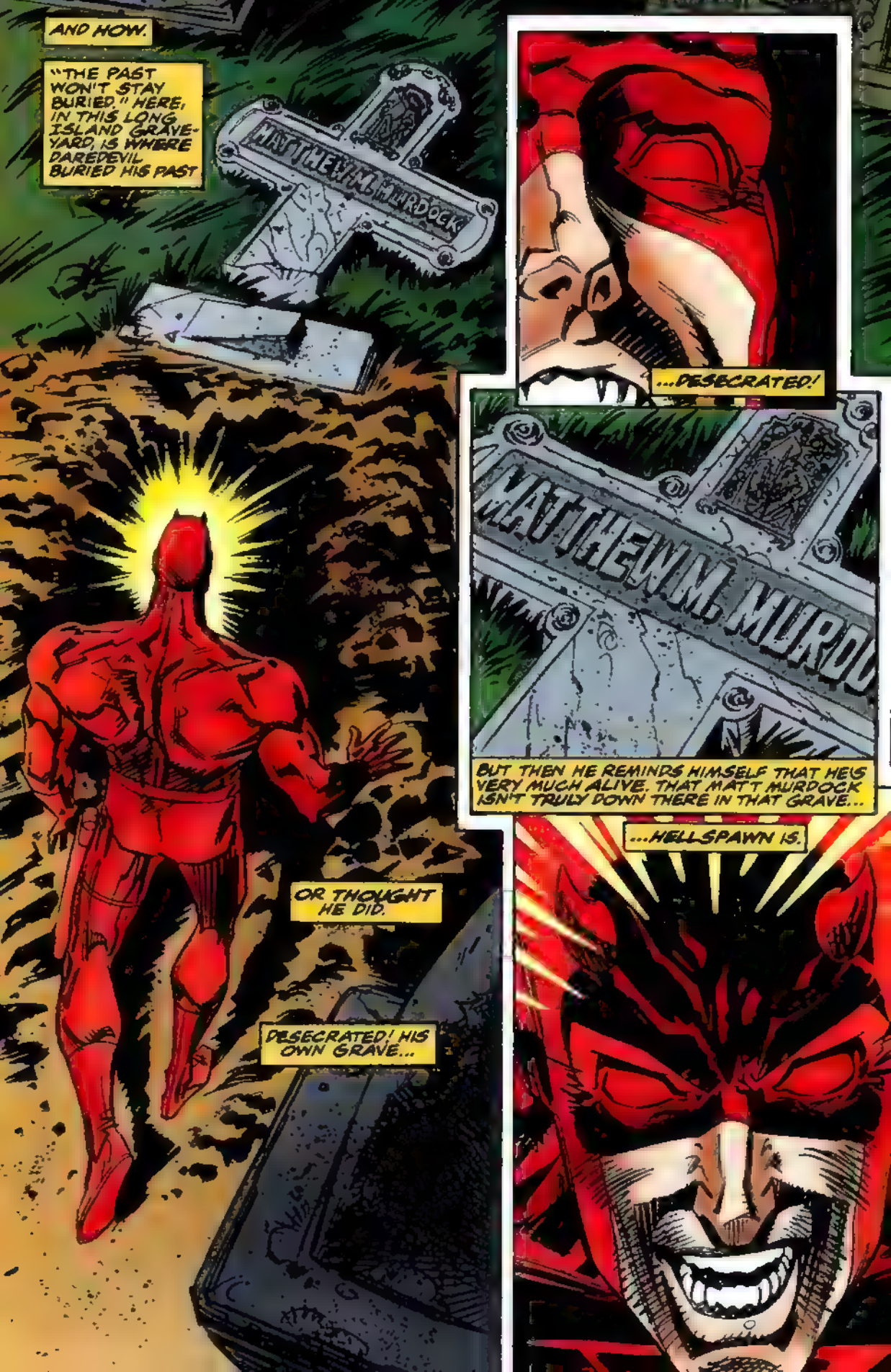
HE'S NOTHING BUT FEAR.

AAAH
AAAAH
HE SITS THERE, THICK-HEADED AND DAZED, TRYING TO ORIENT HIMSELF: WHAT ROOM AM I IN? WHAT DAY IS THIS? WHAT CITY? WHAT COUNTRY? WHAT WORLD?
SOMETHING REACHES THROUGH HIS MENTAL FOG; YANKS AT HIS AWARENESS.
WITHOUT EVEN REALIZING IT HE'S OFF THE BED, RUSHING ACROSS THE ROOM...
...AND WHAT HE FINDS IS ENOUGH TO CONVINCE HIM...
...THAT THE NIGHTMARE ISN'T JUST IN HIS HEAD.
THE PAST WON'T STAY BURIED!!


"CALL ME SIR."
THAT'S WHAT HE SAYS BEFORE HE SNAPS THEIR NECKS. BEFORE HE TAKES THEIR SOFTNESS AND CRUSHES IT. OBLITERATES IT "CALL ME...
"...SIR."
THAT'S HIS NAME NOW. HIS ONLY NAME.
THE PAST IS DEAD, AS FAR AS HE'S CONCERNED. ANYTHING...ANYONE... HE WAS BEFORE, IS ROTTING IN A GRAVE--EATEN BY WORMS AND MAGGOTS
SO HE KNEELS IN PRAYER: NOT TO GOD, BUT TO HIMSELF TO HIS MALENESS.
TO THE PRIMAL VIRILITY SIR WORSHIPS ABOVE ALL.
TO BE A MAN--IS EVERYTHING.
AND WOMAN--THAT GENTLE, FRAIL, PATHETIC CREATURE...
...IS TO BE LOATHED. DESTROYED.
HE BELLOWS LIKE AN APE. DANCES LIKE AN ABORIGINAL WARRIOR.
HE DREAMS --WITH EYES OPEN--OF BLOOD AND MURDER. HE...

...HATES HIMSELF!
RRASKH!
NO, IT'S THEM HE HATES.
THE SOFT ONES.
THE WOMEN.
THEY'LL PAY THE PRICE FOR WHAT THEY'VE DONE TO HIM. ALL OF THEM.
THEY'LL PAY THE PRICE.


SOMEONE HAS INVADED JACK BATLIN'S HOME. SLIPPED IN, LIKE A GHOST, AND DESTROYED DAREDEVIL'S COSTUME.
BUT THAT'S JUST ONE DAREDEVIL. HE'S BEEN MANY OVER THE YEARS.
AND HE CAN BECOME THEM AGAIN.
IT FELT STRANGE, TO SLIP INTO THE OLD REDS. TO BE FREE OF THE ARMOR, OF THE WEIGHT OF JACK BATLIN'S LIES.
FOR A MOMENT, HE FEELS EXHILARATED. FEELS LIKE MURDOCK.
THEN HE THINKS OF THE NOTE-- "THE PAST WON'T STAY BURIED"-- AND EXHILARATION TURNS TO ANGER.
SOMEONE IS PLAYING WITH HIM. SOMEONE WHO KNOWS. AND HE'S DETERMINED TO FIND OUT WHO. AND WHY.


AND HOW.
"THE PAST WON'T STAY BURIED." HERE, IN THIS LONG ISLAND GRAVEYARD, IS WHERE DAREDEVIL BURIED HIS PAST
MATTHEW M. MURDOCK
...DESECRATED!
MATTHEW M. MURDOCK
BUT THEN HE REMINDS HIMSELF THAT HE'S VERY MUCH ALIVE. THAT MATT MURDOCK ISN'T TRULY DOWN THERE IN THAT GRAVE...
...HELLSPAWN IS.
OR THOUGHT HE DID.
DESECRATED! HIS OWN GRAVE...

HELLSPAWN--THE DOPPELGANGER BURIED IN MURDOCK'S PLACE! THAT, HE DECIDES, MUST BE IT!
(NO, NOT THE CREATURE! IT'S MURDOCK!)
HELLSPAWN'S NOT DEAD AT ALL! HE NEVER WAS!
(HE HATES ME FOR KILLING HIM! FOR BURYING HIM ALIVE!)
HE'S COME BACK...
(MURDOCK'S CLAWED HIS WAY OUT...)
...AND HE'S HUNGRY FOR VENGEANCE! HE'S--
(...AND HE'S GOING TO MAKE ME PAY! HE'S--)
DAREDEVIL STOPS HIMSELF--AMAZED AT WHAT HE'S THINKING. WHAT HE'S DOING:
CLAWING AT THE EARTH LIKE AN ANIMAL! TREMBLING --LIKE A FRIGHTENED LITTLE BOY!
HIS RADAR-SENSE PROBES THE GRAVESITE--AND HE FINDS, TO HIS RELIEF, THAT HELLSPAWN IS STILL THERE. STILL VERY MUCH DEAD.

IF ONLY, DAREDEVIL THINKS...
...I COULD JOIN HIM.
OH, MY GOD--!
MATT...?
SWAK
WAIT!
WUD
COME BACK--
--WHOEVER YOU ARE.
MATTHEW J. MURDOCK

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

JAMES "PHIL" FELBER
EDITOR

SID BROWN
MAN ABOUT TOWN

BOBBIE CHASE
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Dear Hornheads,

I have to say that I really like the changes that have taken place over the last couple of years. There are a few things missing though that I would like to see. The main thing, I think, is Bullseye. The man who is supposed to be Daredevil's archenemy has not appeared in fifty issues. Please, please, I'm begging you, bring back Bullseye!!! It would be interesting to have him have another rematch with Elektra, too — a little payback for killing her is in order. Thanks for taking the time to read this and, until Matt Murdock can see again, make mine Marvel!

Chris Lisy
423 Pattie Drive
Berea, OH 44017

Chris, Bullseye will be making an appearance in the first issue of the new PUNISHER book in September. As to him returning to the pages of DAREDEVIL, look for the return of all kinds of old "friends" in issues #450 and beyond.

Dear Devil's Advocate,

Glorianna O'Breen?!? Surprise! Happiness! My favorite once-supporting character has returned to the pages of DAREDEVIL! She's in a major storyline Maybe she'll be back for good! She'll develop a new relationship with Matt! She'll kick Elektra's butt back to the hand! Thank you, Alan Smithee!

Wait. She's dead? That's it? She was a minor sub-plot killed for the purpose of making Matt vengeful? Oh, please, please, don't bring Typhoid Mary back, O.K.?

Thanks.

Mario J. Savastano
951 Dewey Avenue
Rochester , NY 14613

Bad news and good news, Mario. Typhoid will be back in September. But since it will be in her own four-issue limited series, it'll be unlikely she will be killed — at least for three months! The fearless scripting will be by DAREDEVIL alumna Ann Nocenti and the eye-popping painting will be by John Van Fleet *(if you haven't seen his stuff before, shame on you)*. Keep an eye out for it!

Dear Editors,

I have been reading DAREDEVIL since around issue #250 and have watched the many directions the book has taken, such as Daredevil nearly dying during "Inferno", the "Fall of the Kingpin", and most recently, "Fall From Grace". But there is one thing that disappoints me about the book, and all other comic books in general. It is the fact that "shocking events that will change our hero forever" or "cataclysmic events that will affect this book for years to come," don't. Superman died to sell his books. Then they brought him back to sell more books, then faked his death to sell even more books, and now they are killing his alter ego to sell even more. I really don't want to see Daredevil go through the same process. In the latest issue, #341, we see the return of Wilson Fisk. Now in issue #345, Daredevil will don the "Ronald McDonald" yellow and red duds.

My point is this: make these events such as "Fall of the Kingpin" and "Fall From Grace," milestones in DAREDEVIL's history. Think of the death of Gwen Stacy. It is a milestone in the Spider-Man mythos that will never be forgotten. Please don't follow the trend of "kill 'em for a little while, then bring them back," because those stories get very repetitive and even boring. Instead of having Fisk rise to power again, create a new arch nemesis for DD. Keep Daredevil in one costume for at least a few years; he wore those red tights for over thirty!

Please, I have been reading DAREDEVIL for six years and it is not fair to the loyal readers to keep suffering through the ups and downs of the book. If you are going to change him, make him a permanent one or at least one that will really and truly "change Daredevil's life for years to come."

Mike Pizzo
MikePIZZ@aol.com

Mike, unlike a storyline where a character is killed, the famous Daredevil storylines have not been erased or been changed by current events in the book. Matt has gone through more traumas (blindness, love found and lost, etc) than most any real person and has been resilient enough to bounce back from it — that is part of what makes him a hero.

The point of the "Fall From Grace" was not the costume change. That would be trivial. The costume was merely an external reflection of what was going on within Matt. The point of the storyline was that Matt had reached a dead end where he could not be Matt Murdock anymore.

The return of the old costumes are results of Matt finally finding the courage within himself to face his past once more. He has faced the challenges and changes from "Fall From Grace" and is coming back from them — not forgetting them!

Devil's Advocate,

Oh my God, please tell me it's true! Please tell me it's the one and only truth! Please, do tell me I'm not dreaming and that indeed you are going to bring back Daredevil's old costume — the original red and yellow costume! If that's true and none other than J. M. Dematteis and Ron Wagner are coming aboard as DARDEVIL's new regular creative team, I'm sure this series will quickly climb the ladder of my favorite books once again reaching heights previously undreamt of!

So, please tell me it's true and I'll stick like glue!

Olav Boomer
Brugakker 36-06
3704 LP Zeist
The Netherlands

It's true. Handy dandy Stan Lee Glue remover will be arriving next day by Netherlands Express Post. Over and out.

NEXT ISSUE:

Things get deadlier and a lot ... stranger as Daredevil learns the dark secret of Sir. Do not miss it!

BEAST CHARMING
Perenially purveying a plenitude of purty, prettified pictures to my peerless pals!
OCD
is where it's at!
Queries? Requests? Contact me at
BeastCharming@yahoo.com
Pledged to scan all series great and small...